

June 27, 2022

The Honorable Jeffrey N. Roy
House Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 42

The Honorable Tackey Chan
House Chair, Joint Committee on Consumer
Protection and Professional Licensure
State House Room 43

The Honorable Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
House Minority Leader
State House Room 124

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 109D

The Honorable Cynthia S. Creem
Senate Majority Leader
State House Room 312A

The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr
Senate Minority Leader
State House Room 308

Dear Honorable Members of the Conference Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on **H.4524/S.2842, An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy** as you work to produce comprehensive final legislation that will take significant steps to move Massachusetts closer toward its climate and energy goals. We urge you to work quickly to meet the urgency of the moment as we sit at a critical juncture in the Commonwealth's transition toward a net-zero economy.

As a coalition of organizations who advocated throughout the 191st legislative session for the landmark 2021 Net-Zero Roadmap law, we recognize that the ambitious emission-reduction targets laid out in that legislation represent a foundation upon which significant clean energy investments must be built. Currently, we are not on track to meet our 2030 goals, and without significant improvements across all sectors of our economy, we will continue to contribute to the accelerating impacts of the global climate crisis. Fortunately, the House and Senate have each passed legislation this session designed to implement policies that will increase our supply of renewable energy, grow our green economy, and work to decarbonize high-emissions sectors. As you deliberate, we respectfully request that the following priorities be included in the final conference report:

Bold investments in the green economy. We strongly support the inclusion of language that will accelerate the development, manufacturing, and deployment of offshore wind in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth is well-situated to significantly increase the share of electricity we generate from offshore wind, at the same time becoming a national global leader in the wind industry, and we must capitalize on this opportunity with public policy that incentivizes new development and grows our renewable supply. We also support strategic decision-making that accounts for regional transmission needs, impacts on natural resources, and economic inclusion at every point in the planning process. Finally, we recognize the significant role that innovation plays in our ability to meet our long-term goals and support the inclusion of significant and sustainable funding for the work of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to pioneer new technologies and accelerate growth of the green economy.

Critical clean energy infrastructure. As we increase our solicitation of renewable energy to meet our goals, we can only reduce emissions as fast as we are able to reshape our electric grid to support more distributed generation. Inclusion of comprehensive transmission planning and grid modernization language directing utilities to articulate a clearer path toward net-zero electricity generation are necessary components of designing a resilient electric grid that can meet our needs

Decarbonize. We support efforts to decarbonize our transportation sector, which accounts for a disproportionate share of the Commonwealth's emissions compared with other states. Major investments in zero-emission vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure, along with the electrification of our public transit system, will make significant strides to reduce transportation-related emissions. Further, the built environment is the second largest source of emissions following transportation, and efforts to reduce emissions from buildings must be a consideration moving forward.

A continued focus on equity and environmental justice. As we prepare to make another series of historic investments in clean energy, it will be critical that we continue to center economic inclusion and environmental justice at every decision point. We urge the conferees to include comprehensive language that gives environmental justice communities and populations due consideration during planning and procurement process, as well as targeted investments in job training and workforce development for those who have historically been excluded from participation in fast-growing sectors of our economy. We also support efforts to end the practice of competitive electric supply for residential customers, which has consumers over \$400 million and disproportionately targets low-income ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities and for your ongoing commitment to moving Massachusetts toward a net-zero economy. We look forward to supporting strong final legislation that builds on the success of the Net-Zero Roadmap law with action-oriented policy initiatives. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

350 Massachusetts
Ceres

Climate-XChange
Conservation Law Foundation
Elders Climate Action Massachusetts
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Health Care Without Harm
League of Women Voters Massachusetts
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Mothers Out Front
The Nature Conservancy